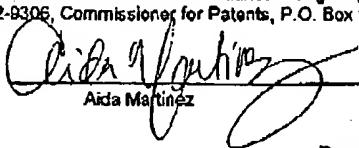


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission in accordance with § 1.6(d) addressed to Art Unit 1644, Central Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: May 25, 2004By: 

Aida Martinez

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Docket No. GC527C1RECEIVED
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MAY 25 2004

In re Application of)
Estell et al.) Group Art Unit: 1644
Serial No.: 09/500,135) Examiner: Saunders, D.
Filed: February 8, 2000)
For: Proteins Producing an Altered)
Immunogenic Response and Methods)
of Making and Using the Same)

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION
MAILED APRIL 19, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed April 19, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made as indicated below. Applicants are filing the present Response within two months of the mailing of the Final Office Action in order to provoke an Advisory Action. None of the amendments to the Claims is intended to narrow the scope of any of the amended Claims within the meaning of *Festo*¹. A listing of the Claims, showing the present amendments begins on page 2, while Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6, and the Conclusion is provided on page 8, herein. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims are allowable and request that the present Claims be passed to allowance.

¹*Festo Corp. v. Shaketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1056, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).

GC527C1 RESPAM FINAL 04-19-04